

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
AND DESIGNATIONS

MAP 2

- TRAILS
- Hike
 - Horse
 - Bike
 - Multiple Use trail
- ROADS
- 2 - Lane Paved
 - 2 - Lane Gravel
 - Less than 2 -Lane Gravel or Dirt
 - Railroad

- Remove
- DEVELOPMENT ZONES

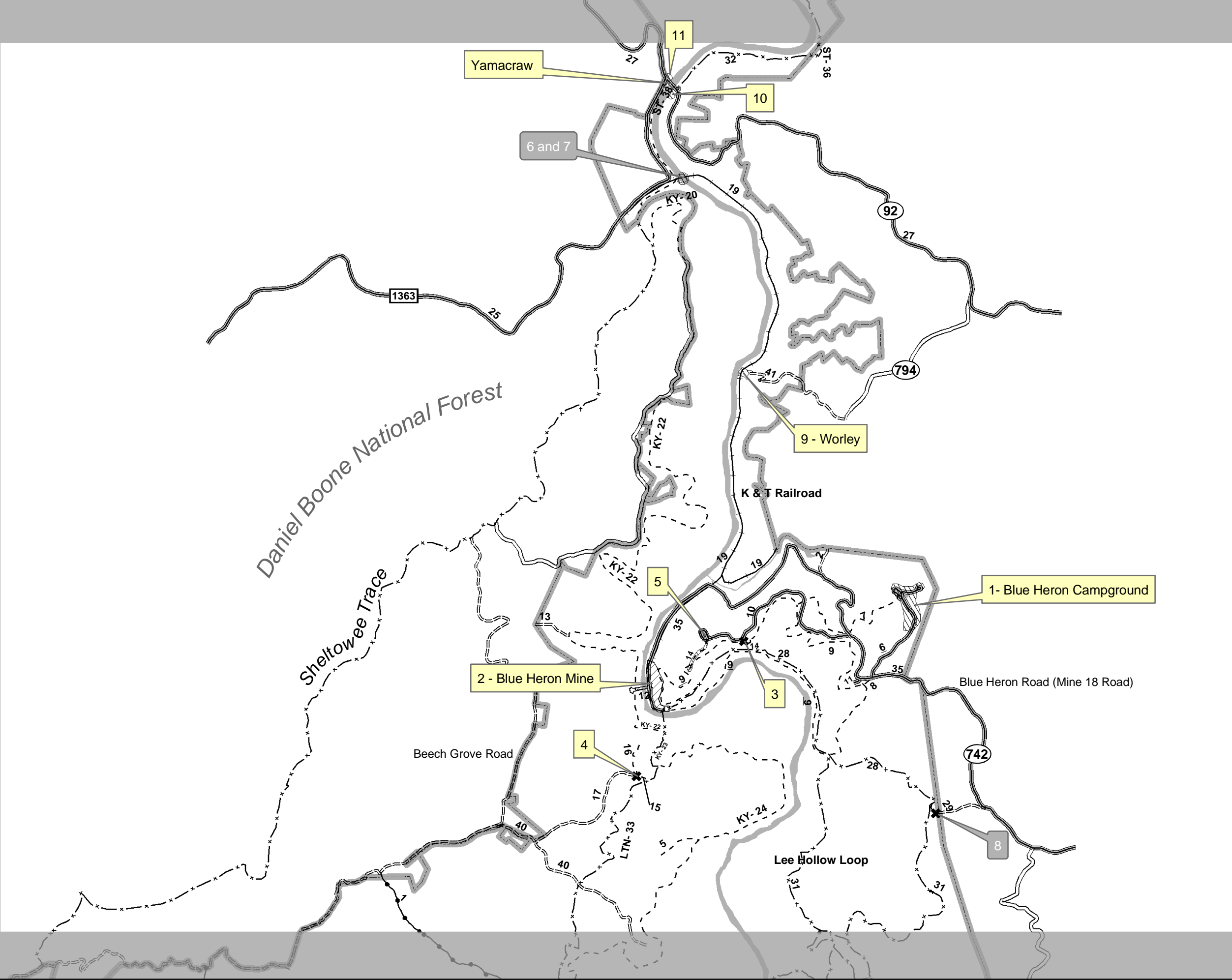
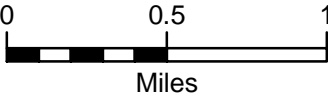
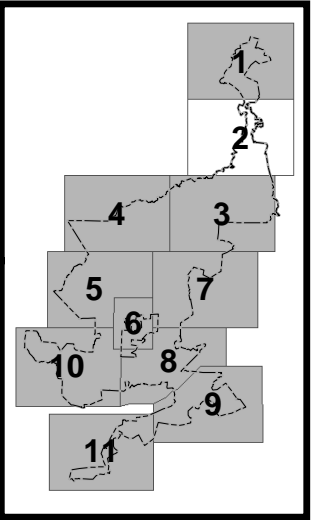
- First Order
- Second Order
- Access

Existing
Development
Zone

Proposed
Development
Zone

ALTERNATIVES

A B



TEXT TO ACCOMPANY MAP 2

DEVELOPMENT SITES

Blue Heron Campground (Map 2, Site 1)

Description: Existing designated site provides camping in improved campground. Access by Blue Heron Road (Mine 18 Road) and campground access road.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue existing uses; minor expansion for group camping, picnic shelter, and parking (Second Order)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Blue Heron Mine (Map 2, Site 2)

Description: Major existing, designated coal mine exhibit provides educational opportunities, trails, trail access, and water access. Access by Blue Heron Road (Mine 18 Road) and passenger train.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue existing uses. (First Order)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Devils Jump Overlook Access (Map 2, Site 3)

Description: Designated overlook trailhead. Access by Blue Heron Overlooks Road.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue existing uses. (Access)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Dick Gap Trailhead (Map 2, Site 4)

Description: Existing designated site provides access to Dick Gap Overlook and trails. Access by Dick Gap Road.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue existing use. (Access)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Gorge Overlook (aka Blue Heron Overlook) (Map 2, Site 5)

Description: Existing designated site provides access to overlook and trails. Large parking area, paved trail, shelter, and picnic tables provided. Access by Blue Heron Overlooks Road.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue existing use. (Second Order)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

K&T Railroad Bridge/Yamacraw Town Site (Map 2, Sites 6, 7)

Description: Potential new site would provide stop for scenic railroad as the railroad service may be extended. Depending on inspection of the bridge, the site could be west or east of the river. The western site would be more conducive to related uses, including trail and river access and parking. Access by railroad and by KY 1363 on west side.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Site plan; coordinate provision of facility with Big South Fork Scenic Railway (Second Order)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Laurel Branch Access (Map 2, Site 8)

Description: Potential new site would provide trail access. Access would be by Laurel Branch Rd.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Site plan; construct or coordinate provision of trailhead for vehicles. (Access) (Note: Improvements would depend on use of Laurel Branch Road for contaminated mine drainage project.)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Worley (Map 2, Site 9)

Description: Existing designated site provides river access. Inadequate access. Access from KY 791.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Site plan; improve access, parking and trail; interpret former town site; coordinate with train planning and contaminated mine drainage restoration effort. (Second Order)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Yamacraw East (Map 2, Site 10)

Description: Existing designated site provides river access and picnicking. Access by KY 92.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue existing uses; site review; improve and expand picnicking. (Second Order)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Yamacraw West (Map 2, Site 11)

Description: Existing designated site provides river access and boat launching. Existing boat ramp is plagued by erosion. Access by KY 92.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Site review; investigate better boat ramp opportunity. (Second Order)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

ROADS AND TRAILS

Bald Knob—Hill Cemetery Trail (aka Ledbetter Road; Old Bear Creek Crossing Road) (Map 2, Trail 1)

Description: Designated gravel road suitable for use by 2 wheel drive vehicles to access the Ledbetter trailhead (see Map 3, Site 4) and for access to cemeteries and for hunting. A portion is also used as part of a foot trail, the Kentucky Trail.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Redesignate as multiple use trail; allow horses from National Forest using Sheltopee Trace to access proposed Long Trail North horse trail
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: MU

Barthell Road (Map 2, Road 2)

Description: Designated gravel road suitable for 2 wheel drive vehicles and used for access to privately owned community restoration project.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 2B

Big Spring Falls Trail (Map 2, Trail 5)

Description: Designated foot trail used to access Big Spring Falls.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: F-4

Blue Heron Campground Access Road (Map 2, Road 6)

Description: Designated two-lane paved access road to developed campground. Also used to access land-locked private land.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 2A

Blue Heron Campground Spur Trail (current: Map 2, Trail 8; new: Map 2, Trail 7)

Description: Designated foot trail connecting campground with Blue Heron Loop Trail. Trail is mostly on the campground access road and is located very close to NPS residence.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Remove trail designation from existing route and provide new trail between campground and Blue Heron Loop Trail that avoids using roads.
- A: Not included
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: F-3

Blue Heron Loop Trail (Map 2, Trail 9)

Description: Designated foot trail used for loop hikes and access to overlooks and mine exhibit.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: F-2

Blue Heron Overlooks Road (Map 2, Road 10)

Description: Designated two-lane paved road providing access to two developed overlooks and trails.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 2A

Blue Heron Residence Access Road (Map 2, Road 11)

Description: Designated paved administrative use road.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 2B

Blue Heron Road (aka Mine 18 Road) (Map 2, Road 35)

Description: Designated two-lane paved access road leading to the Blue Heron Mine exhibit, developed overlooks, campground, river, and the Barthell community restoration project, a private venture.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

***Standard:* 2A**

Blue Heron Tram Bridge (Map 2, Trail 12)

Description: Designated historic tram bridge providing pedestrian access over river and for viewing.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: N/A

Devil Creek Road (Map 2, Road 13)

Description: Designated old road used for administrative purposes only (powerline access).

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 5B

Devil's Jump Overlook Trail (Map 2, Trail 14)

Description: Designated paved trail leading to overlook. Marked for use by those with disabilities (ADA).

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated; site review: minor realignment
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: ADA

Dick Gap Connector (Map 2, Trail 15)

Description: Designated connecting foot trail used to access the Kentucky Trail.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: F-3

Dick Gap Overlook Trail (Map 2, Trail 16)

Description: Designated gravel foot trail used for overlook access.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: F-3

Dick Gap Road (Map 2, Road 17)

Description: Designated gravel road suitable for 2 wheel drive vehicles for access to overlook, trailhead, and gravesite. Portion used as horse trail.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated; relocate horse trail
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 2B

K & T Railroad (Map 2, Railbed 19)

Description: Designated route historically used for logging and coal mining operations along and west of the river. Route extended from Stearns to Blue Heron mine and from there north to Yamacraw and points west, over the K & T Railroad Bridge. Scenic train ride offered by non-profit organization from Stearns to Blue Heron mine exhibit. Plans are underway to extend train ride on its right-of-way to K & T Bridge in phases.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Coordinate with organization to continue and expand compatible operations
- A: Same as Preferred

- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: N/A

Kentucky Trail (Map 2, Trails 20, 22, 23, 24)

Description: Designated long-distance hiking trail. Besides trail sections, the trail route lies on old coal tramways, and old and existing roads. Small portion on north end lies on National Forest.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated; consider relocating portion off of Wilson Ridge Road; allow bicycle use on that portion between the Blue Heron Tram Bridge and Dick Gap Trailhead to provide a bike connection to Long Trail North and Dick Gap Road.
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: F-4 (where another use would not determine a different standard)

KY Highway 1363 (Map 2, Road 25)

Description: Designated two-lane paved road used as through route for access to points west of river.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated; coordinate with state
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 1B

KY Highway 92 (Map 2, Road 27)

Description: Designated paved through road. Sheltowee Trace hiking trail crosses the river on the KY 92 bridge. Bridge is narrow for existing uses.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated; coordinate with Commonwealth
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 1A

Laurel Branch Horse Trail (Map 2, Trail 28)

Description: Designated graveled horse trail largely on route of old coal tram line used to access Blue Heron and horse trails west of river. Also used some by bikes. Route along tram line is susceptible to slides, goes by old mine openings, and has poor drainage in certain locations.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated; bring to standard; address mine openings

- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: H-4

Laurel Branch Trail (Map 2, Trail 29)

Description: Designated, short gravel and dirt road used by 4 wheel drives and increasing numbers of horses to access the horse trail and for hunting access.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Designate as multiple use trail; provide small access site/trailhead near boundary; bring to standard (Note: Improvements would depend on expected route use for contaminated mine drainage project.)

- A: Remove access
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: MU

Lee Hollow Loop (Map 2, Trail 31)

Description: Designated gravel horse trail providing recreational loop ride and connection to other trails. Also used some by bikes.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: H-4

Lick Creek Trail (Map 2, Trail 32)

Description: Designated old road used by ATVs. Also used by hikers as part of the Sheltowee Trace trail. Route is in poor condition from floods, wet soils, and ATV use.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Designate for hiking use, but coordinate with the Forest Service in the future provision of designated horse use (see Sheltowee Trace)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: H-5

Long Trail North (Map 2, Trails 23, 33)

Description: Designated horse trail connecting Blue Heron with Peter's Mountain Trailhead and points beyond, including trails on Daniel Boone National Forest. The majority of the current route uses two well-traveled roads, including Laurel Ridge Road, which has safety and visitor experience issues.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Site plan; relocate trail off of roads except for the portion between Blue Heron and Dick Gap Road, which is not on presently used roads; rename trail at some future point as a segment of the Sheltowee Trace. Trail would be mostly relocated onto old roads and existing trails within the National Area. There would be one section between Cat Ridge Road and Peter's Mountain that could involve some new routing.
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: H-5

Sheltowee Trace (Map 2, Trails 32, 36, 38)

Description: The trail route uses the old Lick Creek Road, the KY 92 bridge, and turns south along KY 1363 before leaving the National Area onto the National Forest. These sections have various problems, including the Lick Creek Road, crossing the narrow KY 92 bridge, and proximity to KY1363.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Designate for hiking use; coordinate with Forest Service in possible future designation of segment B (Negro Creek Trail to 92 bridge to Forest Service boundary west of river) for horse use, and including the possible use of the K&T Bridge; continue coordination with Big South Fork Scenic Railway regarding its plans to use the K & T Bridge. This would likely be a better river crossing than KY 92.
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: Trails 36, 38: F-4 (H-5); Trail 32: 4

Waters Cemetery Road (Map 2, Road 40)

Description: Designated gravel road suitable for use by 2 wheel drive vehicles and used to access cemetery, Dick Gap Overlook, trails, and for hunting access. Portion of road used by horses.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue as designated road; relocate horses to proposed Long Trail North
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: 2C

Worley Road (Map 2, Road 41)

Description: Designated substandard gravel road used by 2 and 4 wheel drive vehicles and ATVs primarily for river access. Site includes historic remains of Worley mining town and is the site for reclamation efforts of contaminated mine drainage. These efforts would affect road alignment and standard.

Alternatives/actions:

- Preferred: Continue designated road uses; bring to standard (coordinate with contaminated mine drainage reclamation effort)
- A: Same as Preferred
- B: Same as Preferred

Standard: To be determined; ultimately to provide for 2 wheel drive vehicles